

REMARKS

The Applicant has received and reviewed the Final Official Action mailed by the Office on 10 February 2006 (hereinafter, the "Final Action"). The Applicant submits this paper as a fully responsive reply thereto, along with a request for continued examination (RCE). The Applicant requests favorable action on this application.

Turning to the Final Action in more detail, Paragraph 4 on Page 2 thereof stated rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,709,172 to Brown (hereinafter, "Brown") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,158,555 to Brown, Jr. (hereinafter, "Brown, Jr."). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning to **independent claim 1**, the Applicant has amended this claim as indicated above to clarify the cable drop support system. For convenience, the Applicant reproduces here a portion of claim 1 as amended above, with redlines shown:

"a cable receptacle attached to an end portion of the at least one segment, the cable receptacle being structured for receiving therein at least ~~a~~an intermediate portion of a cable and for supporting the intermediate portion of the cable as the cable is suspended between a first elevated structure and at least a second elevated structure that are external to the cable drop support system;"

The Applicant submits that these revisions are fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, at least by the Applicant's Figure 6 and by related description in Paragraphs [0026] – [0027].

Turning to the cited art, Brown pertains generally to a temporary surveillance system. The Final Action applied the Applicant's claimed "receptacle" to reference number 14 of Brown. Brown's reference 14 appears to be a platform that supports surveillance equipment 16, such as cameras 20. Brown's Figure 1 illustrates a power supply line 74 extending from a power utility pole 76 to the Brown system 10. However, the Applicant submits that Brown neither teaches nor suggests "a cable receptacle ... being structured for receiving therein at least an *intermediate portion* of a cable and for *supporting the intermediate portion of the cable* as the cable is suspended between a *first elevated structure and at least a second elevated structure* that are external to the cable drop support system", as recited in claim 1.

In addition to the foregoing, however, the Applicant agrees with the assessment on Page 3 of the Final Action that Brown does not teach a drive mechanism that is operatively coupled to respond to the control system. Accordingly, the Final Action cited Brown, Jr. for this teaching.

Turning to Brown, Jr., this document pertains generally to an apparatus and method for carrying wires along a vehicle-mounted extensible mast. The Applicant submits that Brown, Jr. does not provide what is missing from Brown to

teach or suggest “a cable receptacle ... being structured for receiving therein at least an *intermediate portion* of a cable and for *supporting the intermediate portion of the cable* as the cable is suspended between a *first elevated structure* and at least a *second elevated structure* that are external to the cable drop support system”, as recited in claim 1.

Based on at least the foregoing comments, the Applicant submits that Brown and Brown, Jr. do not support a § 103 rejection of claim 1, whether these references are considered severally or in combination. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 1.

Pending claims 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18 depend from claim 1, and stand rejected on similar grounds. Accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 1 apply equally to claims 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18.

Turning to **independent claim 19**, the Applicant has amended this claim to recite features similar to those discussed above with claim 1. Accordingly, the above comments directed to claim 1 apply equally to claim 19. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 19.

The Applicant has added new claims 21-24, including independent claim 21 and dependent claims 22-24. After entry of these new claims, the count of pending claims would stand at 19 claims total, with three (3) independent claims. Accordingly, no additional claims fees are believed necessary.

New claims 21-24 are believed supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, at least by at least by the Applicant's Figure 6 and by related description in Paragraphs [0026] – [0027]. The Applicant requests favorable consideration of these new claims 21-24, in addition to the pending claims discussed above.

Conclusion

The Applicant requests prompt and favorable action on this application at the earliest convenience of the Office. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, **the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.**

Date: 12 JUN 06

Respectfully Submitted,

By:  _____

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